avoid delay in filling up the vacancies. May I know from the hon. Minister what is the response of the Principals and why they have not filled up the vacancies rather quickly?

Secondly, I would like to know whether the local candidates will be given preference in the matter of filling up the vacancies.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want a reply, you have to be brief.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: My question is whether preference will be given to the local candidates for filling up the vacancies and whether the *ad hoc* appointees will be regularised in the near future.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Obviously preference will have to be given to the local candidates because the basis is the list that comes from the local Employment Exchange. It is from that list that these *ad hoc* appointments are made. Naturally the list is the local list and for that they will get

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Syllabus for Studies in Primary Schools

*84. SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce radical changes in syllabus for studies in primary schools all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). The National Policy on Education, 1986 has stressed on the need for a child–centred approach to education, on the role of the teacher as facilitator, on replacement of rote learning, lectures and information by interactive modes of teaching which focus on 'learning' and stimulate curiosity in order to make the study of subjects interesting and easy to grasp. In 1990, minimum levels of learning were laid down by a Committee set up by the Government for subjects of mathematics, languages and environmental studies for primary classes. This approach has been endorsed by the Central Advisory Board of Education. On 14th November, 1991, the Minister of Human Resource Development announced the intention of the Government to reduce the academic burden on school children. The Government have now appointed a National Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. Yash Pal, Ex–Chairman of University Grants Commission to advise on the ways and means to reduce the curriculum load on school students at all levels, particularly the young students. The expenditure likely to be incurred in this regard will depend on the procedures and methodology of work to be adopted by the Committee. The other members of the Committee are:

(i) Prof. Krishna Kumar,
Delhi University.

(ii) Prof. T.S. Saraswathy,
Head, Department of Child Development,
M.S. University, Baroda.

(iii) Ms. Dina Guha,
Psychologist, E-4/10, Ben Nevis,
Bulabhai
Desai Road, Bombay-400026.

(iv) Mrs. V. Parthasarathy,
Principal,

Sardar Patel Vidyalaya,
New Delhi.

(v) Dr. V.G. Kulkarni,
Director,
Homi Bhabha Science Centre,
Tata Institute of Fundamental Research,
Bombay.

(vi) Prof. Poromesh Acharya,
Indian Institutute of Management,
Calcutta.

(vii) Dr. G.L. Arora,
Member–Secretary
Director,
SCERT, New Delhi.

The committee will submit its report within six months.

Study Centres of I.G.N.O.U.

*88. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for establishing study centres of Indira Gandhi National Open University;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish such study centres in the Konkar region;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) According to the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University has so far established 193 Study Centres in different parts of the country to provide counselling and library services for its students. The criteria for establishing study centres include the following:

i) Envirolment in IGNOU's courses;

ii) Availability of suitable accommodation and academic counsellors;

iii) Needs of different regions in the country, including backward and remote areas.

The number of study centres established by the Universeity also depends on he availability of financial resources.

(b) to (d). IGNOU has so far established one Regional Centre at Pune and twelve study centres in Maharashtra. At present the University has no proposal to establish a study centre in the Konkan region. The question of establishment of a study centre in the region would depend on its feasibility.

[*Translation*]

Improvements in Sugar Factories

*89. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
SHRI RATILAL VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Study Group constituted by the Government for suggesting improvements in sugar factories and cultivation of sugarcane has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have laid down any time limit for this purpose;